"GYPSY HILL PARK."

We have frequently had occasion to refer to the City Waterworks, and especially as it was proper to do so in presenting the attractions and opportunities of this locality for the enlargement of business-pursuits and the introduction of new industries, and for pleasant homes. To the stranger passing through Staunton by the lines of railroads, but little of the excellencies of the inmediate

SURROUNDINGS AND BEAUTIFUL PROSPECTS

would arrest his attention. A few minutes in a pleasant walk or drive will place the visitors on elevated points overlooking the city and commanding views, of which there are none so charmingly presented to the inhabitants of a town or to the traveller along the highways through the picturesque landscape of Virginia, except perhaps that great outstretch of mountains, hills, and valleys that are beheld from the summits along the great southwestern road near Newbern in Pulaski county.

At this point we would perhaps be excusable for copying the outlines of the view from Reservoir hill made in 1885 and published then in the SPECTATOR, in which, with the aid of the maps of the coast-survey, every point was located, but repetition is not always pleasing to the reader, and we pass on to the objects of the present hour of work to refer to the City Council's proceedings of last week inaugurating the movement for a City Park, a progress we have often advocated.

"GYPSY HILL PARK."

Captain William P. Tams, Chairman of the public grounds' committee as well as that of Finance of the City Council, and to whose constantly applied ability and industry the city is more indebted than to any other man for the electric light plant, introduced a proposition at the meeting on the 7th instant to appropriate eighty-five acres of idle land, possessed by the city in connection with the water-works, to the purpose of a park for which his proposition suggested the title above quoted.

A park for Staunton is a public want, not to say a positive necessity, and every liberal mind in its reflections upon the future will, we think, hail the movement with many degrees of pleasure. Here we might enter the consideration of the scope of its prospective contributions to the comforts and happiness of of the people, the incalcuable benefits, the refreshing and invigorating pleasures it would afford the entire population, and the blessings it would perpetuate in association with the elegant culture of this, one of the most refined communities of the country.

THE TOPOGRAPHY.

Beautifully rolling hills, winding vales, here and there slight depressions crowned by gently rising elevations are the outlines of an open field dotted over by many little gothic castles protecting the springs which through pipes converge to the main conduit of the city's water supply, before the machinery of the water works lifts it to its elevated height whence its incomparable benefits descend to the inexpressible joy of the population, and for their safety from ravaging flames, and which, in their affections, is esteemed as the "City's Gem,"

THE GROUNDS,

when embellished with carriage- and walk-ways, with trees, and shrubs and lakes will suggest contemplations that will be in happy association with the field of fountains now contributing rich blessings in the abundant water-supply. With a light annual expenditure it is capable of adding much more to the happiness of the people, and the Council should be encouraged to continue the movement which is, as yet, only one of enquiry.

PLAN OF PROGRESS.

Captain Tams briefly outlined his plans for progress. A landscape gardener will be needed to make the surveys and plans. These can be filled up and carried forward from time to time as the city can spare the means; but in aid of that expense the people themselves can contribute valuable service. In connection with these grounds, he proposes to appoint

ARBOR DAYS

when every body—the teachers and pupils of the public schools especially—having previously prepared for it, will turn out and plant trees and shrubs. These arbor-days can be repeated several times in the fall and spring months.—It will be a joyous occasion to see the whole community turning out and vigorously taking hold of the design. Arbor-days for tree-planting originated in Nebraska about twenty years ago, and since that time several States have adopted them as voluntary and legal holidays for their specific object. The plan is largely practiced in West Virginia, especially by the public schools, with the most satisfactory results.

In 1835, the Augusta County Board of Supervisors at our suggestion recommended that the schools plant trees on the public school-grounds, and also that people plant trees along the public highways. It has been to a limited extent adopted, and already the benefits in a few localities are apparent.

But few prettier evergreens grow on the earth's surface than are to be found in our mountain valleys, whilst everywhere our forests yield the handsomest growth of shade, and, we might also say, of ornamental trees. Shrubs there are in abundance for the asking, which our own citizens would contribute when pruning and relieving over-growth on their lawns.

Our working, toiling people of all occupations and professions need more days of pleasant recreation in which such interesting labor can be united. It only requires here the commencement to insure, as it has elsewhere, the consummation of permanent and delightful realities with which all the future will be associated by past recollection and memories, elevating, refining and enduring.